

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Nov. 6, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 144.

To relieve prevalent misconceptions in regard to the policy and practice of the Department on the subject of impressment, the following, being extracts of General Orders of March 19th, is repeated:

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, March 19, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 31.

In consequence of numerous applications made by various persons to the War Department, it is obvious that some misconception in regard to the instructions of the Secretary of War in relation to the impressment of supplies, must exist on the part of the people, or that the agents of the government have violated their instructions: Now, therefore, for the purpose of removing such misconception, and to prevent any violation of those instructions, it is hereby ordered:

I. That no officer of the government shall, under any circumstances whatever, impress the supplies which a party has for his own consumption, or that of his family, employees, or slaves.

II. That no officer shall at any time, unless specially ordered so to do by a General commanding, in a case of exigency, impress supplies which are on their way to market for sale on arrival.

III. These orders were included in the instructions originally issued in relation to impressment by the Secretary of War; and the officers exercising such authority are again notified, that "any one acting without or beyond" the authority given in those instructions, will be held strictly responsible.

In conformity with the foregoing, to prevent any inconsiderate action on the part of officers or agents charged with the duty of impressment, they are enjoined, until further orders, which will not be given unless under imperative exigencies for the supply of the army, not to impress any necessities of subsistence to man, owned by producers, in transitu to market, or after arrival at market, unless retained an unreasonable time from sale to consumers.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.